

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Pekka VALLITTU et al.

Serial Number: 10/720,483

Group Art Unit: 3732

Filed: November 25, 2003

Examiner: Bumgarner, Melba N.

For: DENTAL OR MEDICAL DEVICE

RESPONSE TO SECOND RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 23, 2006

Sir:

In response to the Restriction Requirement mailed July 24, 2006, applicants provisionally elect Group I, claims 11-16, with traverse.

The Restriction Requirement should be withdrawn because search and examination of the entire application can be made without serious burden to the Examiner. All three Groups are method inventions classified in the same Class 433. (Groups I and II are alternatively classified together in Class 623). Thorough search and examination of the invention of Group I (a method of manufacturing a dental or medical device) will necessarily include

search of the invention of Group II (a method of manufacturing a dental or medical device) and the invention of Group III (a method of manufacturing a finished dental appliance from the dental device). See MPEP § 803, which requires search and examination of admittedly independent or distinct inventions where, as here, search and examination of all the claims can be made without serious burden. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement are earnestly requested.

In response to the Election of Species requirement, applicants provisionally elect the dental device species of invention illustrated in Figs. 1-8. Claims 11-24 read on the elected species, with claims 11-21 being generic thereto.


It is not believed any fee is required for entry and consideration of this Response. Nevertheless, the Commissioner is

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authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 50-1258 in the amount
of any such required fee.

Respectfully submitted,



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